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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0254
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RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 4038
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TBILISI 001161

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [KBTS](#) [RS](#) [GG](#)
SUBJECT: GEORGIA: THIRD SESSION OF INCIDENT MECHANISM DOES
NOT OCCUR

REF: TBILISI 1045

Classified By: AMBASSADOR JOHN F. TEFFT FOR REASONS 1.4 B AND D

11. (C) Summary and comment. As predicted reftel, the third session of the Joint Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism (JIPRM), scheduled for June 23 in Ergneti, did not occur. The meeting was postponed for an indefinite period due to the South Ossetian delegation's refusal to participate. The Georgian MFA and the EUMM both released press statements expressing their disappointment that the meeting was forced to be cancelled. With the loss of both UNOMIG and OSCE, the JIPRM is one of the few arenas left in which it is possible to raise concerns affecting the local populations. However, South Ossetia's refusal to participate further underscores their lack of willingness to engage on substantive issues that directly impact the population. End summary and comment.

12. (SBU) At the second session of the JIPRM on May 29, the participants originally agreed in principle to a third session on June 11 at Ditsi. This meeting was rescheduled when the South Ossetian delegation refused to attend because of the non-resolution of the three disappeared Ossetians and chairmanship issues (reftel). During a visit by the EU Troika to Tskhinvali shortly after June 11, the Troika stressed to the South Ossetians the importance of the JIPRM, negotiating a rescheduled third session for June 23 at Ergneti. However, several days before the session was to occur, the South Ossetian delegation again refused to participate because of the unresolved issues. The Georgian MFA issued a statement saying that "all responsibility for the thwarting of the Incident Prevention Mechanism rests with Russia," while the EUMM "expressed its disappointment that once again the South Ossetian delegation has decided that it is unable to attend."

TEFFT